

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
351 North Mountain View Avenue, Third Floor ♦ San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010
(909) 387-9146 ♦ Fax (909) 387-6228

JIM LINDLEY, M.P.A.
Public Health Director

PAULA MEARES-CONRAD
Assistant Director of Public Health

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.
Health Officer

CONTACT: Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.
Health Officer
(909) 387-6218

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San Bernardino County Public Health Officer Announces Fifth Death from Novel H1N1 Flu Virus

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Public Health Officer, Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., announced the County's fifth death from the novel H1N1 flu virus, previously known as "swine flu."

"We would like to convey our deepest condolences to the family", stated Dr. Ohikhuare, "H1N1 is widespread and among us, everyone should remain vigilant in helping prevent the spread of this virus."

As of today, we have a total of 206 confirmed novel H1N1 flu virus cases, and 32 hospitalized cases in San Bernardino County. The majority of the cases have experienced mild or moderate illness, and most patients have fully recovered. "However, we are in the early stages of a global influenza pandemic and Public Health urges all residents to continue to take precautions to protect themselves, their families, co-workers and the community", stated Dr. Ohikhuare.

Currently, there is no vaccine to protect against the novel H1N1 virus. Vaccine is in production and should be available by late fall 2009. More information will be provided as it becomes available. It is important for County residents to get vaccinated for the seasonal flu virus and to practice the following precautions:

- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow. Dispose of the tissue after use.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

People experiencing flu-like symptoms should stay home from work or school, limit contact with others and call their healthcare provider. For more information on seasonal flu vaccination, contact (800) 782-4264.

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MARK UFFER
County Administrative Officer

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